

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1-2 and 4-16 as follows:

5 1. (Amended) An implantable microcontact structure for neuroprostheses comprising:
at least one contact element, said element formed on at least one two-dimensional carrier wherein the carrier has at least two regions that are movable relative to one another,

10 said microcontact structure capable of assuming at least two desired positions for the purposes of mechanical anchorage, said desired positions comprising a basic position and an operating position, and said microcontact structure having a spatial extent wherein said spatial extent is minimized during surgical transportation to an implant point by compacting the parts that are movable relative on one another.

15 2. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 further comprising a positioning means wherein the desired positions of the microcontact structure can be fixed, interchanged or altered by external action before implantation, during a surgical intervention or by external signals without surgical intervention.

20 4. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 wherein the spatial extent of the microcontact structure is minimized during the surgical transportation to the implant point by a minimizing means selected from the group consisting of folding, nesting and rolling.

5. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 wherein said compacting can be released by a releasing means after the surgical transportation.

6. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 5 wherein said compacting places the microcontact structure in a compact state, and said microcontact structure further comprises a locking means for locking said microcontact structure in the compact state.

7. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 6 further comprising a lock releasing means, said lock releasing means permitting releasing forces at the junctions between the regions of the microcontact structure to open the microcontact structure out of the compact state.

8. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 7 wherein the releasing forces are selected from the group consisting of spring forces, molecular conformation changes pneumatic forces, hydraulic forces and electromagnetic forces.

9. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 2 wherein the positioning means is utilized to attain a mechanical anchorage and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of the external action.

10. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 2 wherein the positioning means is utilized to optimize an electrical contact or an active connection with the nerve tissue and takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force as a result of an external action.

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11. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 9 wherein said positioning means comprises a surgical device or transmitting signals to the microcontact structure.

12. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 10 wherein said positioning means comprises a surgical device or transmitting signals to the microcontact structure, in particular electromagnetic signals, light or ultrasound.

13. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 11 wherein the signals are selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

14. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 12 wherein the signals are selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic signals, light and ultrasound.

sub 20 15. (Amended) The microcontact structure according to Claim 1 wherein the positioning means is utilized for re-explanation of the structure and said position means takes place in a measured manner in a time-controlled sequence with respect to movement and force by an external action.